

Tennessee Sex Offender Treatment Board

Approved Treatment Provider Qualifications

In order to be “approved” to provide sex offender treatment and/or assessments (TSOTB Approved Provider), the following conditions/qualifications must be met:

A. Education

1. All Approved Providers should hold a master’s or doctoral degree in social work, psychology, counseling, or marriage and family from a regionally accredited university; or
2. Hold a degree of doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathic medicine from an institution that is approved by an accrediting agency recognized by the Tennessee Board of Medicine.

B. Licensure

1. You must hold a current Tennessee license from the Health related Board in Medicine, Nursing, Psychology, Social Work, Professional Counseling, Marriage and Family, and/or Substance Abuse.
2. You have a provisional license from the Tennessee Health Related Board in the above mentioned areas (You may only provide “psychological services” within the limits of your license).
3. You are licensed eligible or working towards licensure and working (under supervision) for a Licensed Mental Health Agency.
4. There is no “grandfather clause” for this requirement.

The TSOTB approved sex offender treatment as defined in T.C.A. 39-13-709 is considered “counseling, psychological services, treatment, etc.” and individuals who perform these services shall have appropriate licensure from the Health Related Board.

Being approved by the Tennessee Sex Offender Treatment Board does not permit a provider to “practice” or “perform services” that he/she is not licensed to perform. All services provided by an “approved provider” must be within the limits of their license.

C. Sex Offender Training

1. You must have at least 50 hours of specialized sex offender training of which a minimum of 10 hours of training must be in the following areas:
 - a. Etiology; developmental issues of sex offender behavior
 - b. Sex offender assessment
 - c. Sex offender treatment interventions

- d. Program development, evaluation, and treatment efficacy
 - e. Community Safety and issues related to recidivism
2. There is no exemption for this requirement. All providers must document 50 hours of specialized training (see A.P.A. ethics guidelines concerning practice only those “skills, techniques in which you have the education, training, and experience.”)
 3. All “approved providers” must provide documentation to the TSOTB of specialized training received.
 4. All providers who have not received 50 hours specialized training are required to have supervision from a TSOTB approved provider.
 5. Providers who have not met this requirement will be placed on the list as a “provisional” provider once the TSOTB receives a copy of a supervision agreement.

D. Experience

1. You must have 2,000 hours of supervised clinical experience in the field of sex offender treatment. Clinical experience is defined as participation in professional training, work, research, writings, etc. related to the field of sex offender treatment.
2. In order to provide sex offender assessments, you must have a minimum of 250 hours of supervised clinical experience specifically in completing sex offender risk assessments.
3. All approved providers must have a minimum of 100 hours face to face supervision within the 2000 hours clinical experience. Group or peer supervision may be used to meet up to 50 hours face to face supervision, however you may only count those hours dedicated to case presentations.
4. Supervision must be provided by an individual who is an approved sex offender treatment provider by the TSOTB.
5. All providers who meet educational requirements and were “approved” by the Board prior to January 1, 2003, shall be exempt from the requirement of having 2,000 hours of supervised clinical experience in the field of sex offender treatment.
6. All Providers approved by the Board after January 1, 2003 who provide documentation of 2,000 hours clinical experience in the field of sex offender treatment (250 hours in risk assessment) are exempt from supervision (other than peer supervision). You may use any clinical contacts; clinical staffing, research, writing, etc. related to the field of sex offender treatment received any time during your professional development (practicum, field placement, internship, work, etc.)
7. All providers approved after January 1, 2007 must have 2,000 hours of supervised clinical experience in the field of sex offender treatment.
6. Until this requirement is met, all providers approved by the TSOTB will be placed on the list as a “provisional” provider once TSOTB receives a copy of a supervision agreement.

E. Letters of Reference

1. All approved providers must provide 2 letters of reference from “approved” providers regarding the applicant’s character and capacity to provide treatment services.
2. All providers approved by the Board prior to January 1, 2005 shall be exempt from this requirement.

F. Supervision

1. You must have 100 hours face-to-face supervision with a licensed TSOTB approved provider. No more than 50 hours of supervision can be group or peer supervision. If using peer supervision, you may only use hours specifically involving case discussion or presentation.
2. All providers who are required by the Tennessee Health Related Board to practice under supervision must provide written documentation (supervision agreement) including the name and license number of the supervisor (sex offender treatment services must be supervised by a TSOTB approved provider).
3. All providers licensed to practice independently or under supervision that have not met the specialized sex offender training requirements must provide written documentation (supervision agreement) including the name and license number of the supervisor (must be a TSOTB approved provider). Supervision must continue until training requirements are completed.